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Message Text

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44
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 IO-11 /120 W
---------- 088085
R 011530Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7923
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUICIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 776

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, CM
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON COFFEE PRICE INCREASES

REF: STATE 34044

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1. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PARA 2 REFTEL:

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(A) INTERNAL RETAIL PRICE RANGES FOR CAMEROONIAN COFFEE, WHICH BLENDS ARABICA AND ROBUSTA, IN DOLLARS PER POUND WERE: NOVEMBER 1974, $1.30 - $1.60; SEPTEMBER 1975, $1.45 - $1.75; FEBRUARY 1976, $1.45 - $1.80.

(B) MOST LOCAL ROASTING IS DONE BY PRODUCERS ON SMALL SCALE WHTH ONLY ONE MAJOR COFFEE ROASTING COMPANY. LATTER PAID GURC SET PRICES TO PRODUCERS (SEE PARA D BELOW).

(C) COFFEE EXPORTS PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY 30 PER CENT CAMEROON'S TOTAL EXPORT INCOME. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN EXPORT POLICIES, AND GURC CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE EXPANDED COFFEE PRODUCTION FOR EXPORT (SEE PARA E BELOW).

(D) COFFEE PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS IN DOLLARS PER POUND WERE:

	CROP YEAR 74/75	CROP YEAR 75/7 6
ROBUSTA (SUPERIOR)	$0.28	$0.30
ARABICA (BASE PRICE)	$0.35	$0.38

ARABICA PRODUCERS ARE ALSO GIVEN SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT AT END OF CROP YEAR BASED ON FINAL SALES EARNINGS MINUE EXPENSES OF MARKETING ORGANIZATIONS.

(E) NE NEW MEASURES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED SINCE THE FROST. GURC IS CONTINUING, AS BEFORE, TO SUBSIDIZE FERTILIZER TO FARMERS AND HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH FAO TO OBTAIN FERTILIZERS AT MINIMUM COST. HOWEVER, FERTILIZER COST HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED, AND PART OF INCREASE HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO FARMERS. THIS WILL MOST LIKELY SLIGHTLY REDUCE FERTILIZER USAGE AND SUBSEQUENT COFFEE PRODUCTION.

2. TO BEST EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE GURC FULLY INTENDS TO
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CASH IN ON INCREASED COFFEE PRICES WITH MAXIMUM EXPORS. CAMEROON COFFEE PRODUCTION, WHILE VITAL TO CAMEROON, IS MINOR FACTOR ON WORLD MARKET, AND CAMEROON IS PRICE-TAKER, NOT SETTER.
SPIRO

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NNN

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